

as a flight attendant for 25 yrs. I believe it would be a very bad idea to allow the use of cellphones while inflight. Any way you look at it, there would be an increase in safety risks for several reasons. First, cell phone use has never been allowed inflight because it was believed to interfere with cockpit instruments. this has never been absolutely proven otherwise. safety is not something that your department should be compromising just because some self-appointed important people would like this convenience. Ever heard the slogan "just say no"?

second, it has been my experience in 25yrs. of flying that passenger tempers are already stretched to the limit with all the other inconveniences that come with the cramped atmosphere while flying. Add to this already volatile environment the typically inconsiderate use of numerous cellphones, you will have created a serious threat to the safety of flight. Flight attendants are on-board to insure compliance with FAR'S and are already stretched to the limit. In today's world we also have the added responsibility of closely monitoring the cabin for threats to safety from terrorist type activities. We do not have the time, nor should we be expected to play referee between passengers over the proper use of cellphones. additionally, it would be naive to believe that passengers themselves would voluntarily follow proper rules for cellphone use. Unfortunately, a lot of our time is already wasted trying to get passengers to follow the basic, well-known rules of flying.

You also try to support to use of cellphones by saying that passengers could, in an emergency, provide much needed detail to people on the ground. Again, the reality is much different from what you may imagine. First of all, during an emergency is when the crew would need 100% attention and cooperation from the passengers. It is the crew that is in charge of the aircraft and who the passengers should be listening to. Imagine everyone on cellphones, calling family, newspapers etc. getting "advice" from people who have absolutely no training for the situation. In the meantime, the crew, who are the only ones equipped to handle the emergency is being ignored. Again, this is the reality of the situation.

Last but not least, what you are proposing would ultimately make a terrorists job so much easier. By allowing widespread use of cellphones during flight, it would make it that much harder for the crew to pick-up on someone using some alternative form of an electronic device. again, safety would be compromised. You would also be allowing terrorists to communicate more effectively between aircraft, helping to insure they complete their mission.

please understand, the bottom line is that by allowing passengers this "convenience" you would be undermining the safety of our entire aviation system.